

DPR Newsbox is a sample of recent articles in the media that relate to the world of pesticides and the environment. It allows DPR staff and stakeholders to stay abreast of how these issues are being represented in the news and social media. It is not meant to instruct or persuade readers. Please do not copy or distribute as doing so may violate copyright laws.

**Nov 12 2015. 4 stories.**

## **1/ TIME: European Safety Group Recommends Pesticide Glyphosate Despite Cancer Concerns**

<http://time.com/4109153/glyphosate-pesticide-cancer/>

The finding conflicts with conclusions reached by the World Health Organization

A key European food safety agency rejected cancer concerns over the common pesticide glyphosate in a report Thursday, drawing immediate criticism from public health experts.

The new report, published by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), comes in sharp contrast to an assessment made earlier this year by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a branch of the World Health Organization (WHO), that the chemical is a “probable human carcinogen.”

“I think it’s very unfortunate,” said Dr. Philip Landrigan, dean for global health at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York. “Glyphosate went through an extremely deliberative process a few months ago [by IARC]. Anybody that comes up with an opposite conclusion has to have a very strong justification.”

Glyphosate, now the world’s most commonly used herbicide, was introduced for commercial use in 1974 and for several decades scientists believed the product was a less toxic alternative than other weedkillers. Use of the product has expanded after it was coupled with the farming of genetically modified crops. Many farmers now plant crops that have been engineered to resist glyphosate, and then apply the pesticide to kill weeds.

Human exposure to the substance has grown as farmers upped their use of glyphosate in response to weeds growing resistant to the substance. Overall use of glyphosate in the U.S. increased by a factor of 250 between 1974 and 2014, according to research conducted by Landrigan.

## **2/LA Times Editorial: Rat poison is killing more than rats**

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-poisoned-puma-20151112-story.html>

The death of a 2-year-old mountain lion from rat poison was unusual and unsettling

enough to capture attention and sink hearts, especially because P-34 had attracted more than her share of local fame last year by lounging under a Newbury Park mobile home. But, in fact, wildlife of all sorts die from rodenticides that were never intended for them, and most of the state's mountain lions have those poisons in their systems.

Of most concern is so-called second-generation rat poison, which is more toxic than previous versions and, when eaten by a rodent, stays in its body at high levels. Birds of prey, bobcats and other animals that eat rodent carcasses — or live rodents, which are often woozy from the poison and thus easier to catch — then build up the poison in their bodies. Thus it works its way up the food chain.

California needs to examine more aggressive restrictions on pesticide use. -

According to a 2013 article in Audubon magazine, more than three-fourths of California's mountain lions have these poisons in their systems, as do more than 90% of the owls, hawks and other birds of prey in San Diego County. The poison also threatens bobcats, foxes and pet dogs and cats. The problem is widespread because rodents don't stay tidily on the property where they ate the poison; they wander into wilderness areas and other backyards before they die. In some cases, the rodenticides leave affected animals disoriented and with weakened immune systems. They are more likely to be hit by cars, to be unable to find food or seek shelter, or to be afflicted with mange.

Last year, California banned the sale of second-generation rodenticide to the public, though farms and licensed exterminators may still use them, and the state also forbade their use in state parks. Yet the deaths continue. In late 2014, three bobcats were found dead at UC Santa Cruz, and Griffith Park's well-known mountain lion, P-22, developed a case of mange that biologists believed was the result of rodenticide. In September, the poisoned body of a gray fox was found in the Santa Monica Mountains.

California has been ahead of the rest of the country in restricting the use of rat poisons, but, according to state wildlife officials, the new rules aren't working. The problem appears to be the too-lavish use of second-generation products by exterminators with too little attempt to fix the cause of rat infestation. For example, state officials said, it is common to see overflowing trash bins surrounded by rat-bait stations. As long as the trash remains, so will the rats.

California must consider more aggressive restrictions on pesticide use. It could require exterminators to use nontoxic approaches — cleaning things up, sealing openings in buildings and replacing rat-attracting plants — and to rely on second-generation rat poison only when absolutely necessary.

### **3/ BLOG: Victoria's Secret perfume is almost as effective as DEET against mosquitoes**

<http://inhabitat.com/victorias-secret-perfume-is-almost-as-effective-as-deet-against-mosquitoes/>

Mosquitoes are basically the king of summertime pests, and nothing pleases a happy camper more than finding an effective way to keep the little bugs from biting. In a quest to find the next greatest mosquito repellent, a group of scientists tested 10 different substances, including the powerful pesticide DEET. One of the most effective bug repellents in the test proved to be the wild card: Victoria Secret's perfume Bombshell. In fact, it works almost as well as DEET for keeping the little winged assailants at bay.

Perfume is an unlikely bug repellent for many obvious reasons. First, it's certainly not developed to do the job, so its accidental success seems improbable at best. Further, Victoria's Secret formulates its scents to be soft and floral – similar to the types of aromas that typically attract insects, rather than fend them off. In fact, researchers who conducted the study at New Mexico State's Molecular Vector Physiology Lab are among the first to admit how baffling the results initially were.

In a statement, research team member Stacy Rodriguez explains, "There was some previous literature that said fruity, floral scents attracted mosquitoes, and to not wear those. It was interesting to see that the mosquitoes weren't actually attracted to the person that was wearing the Victoria's Secret perfume – they were repelled by it."

These findings, published in the Journal of Insect Science, don't mean you should go trading in your bug spray for sweet-smelling perfumes just yet. The test results still put DEET at the top of the list in terms of effective mosquito repulsion, and products containing higher quantities of DEET were found to last longer than those with lower amounts. So, stick with what works or consider making your own natural bug spray for an earth-friendly alternative.

#### **4/Monterey Co Weekly: Pesticide commonly used in broccoli, vineyards facing ban.**

[http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local\\_news/pesticide-commonly-used-in-broccoli-vineyards-facing-ban/article\\_931ab3b0-88c4-11e5-a24d-07f1defdbefb.html](http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local_news/pesticide-commonly-used-in-broccoli-vineyards-facing-ban/article_931ab3b0-88c4-11e5-a24d-07f1defdbefb.html)

Maybe it should come as no surprise that a comparison to Congress now qualifies as an insult, but even the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals went there in an Aug. 10 decision.

"Although filibustering may be a venerable tradition in the U.S. Senate, it is frowned upon in administrative agencies tasked with protecting human health," Judge Margaret McKeown wrote in an opinion against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The ruling ended eight years of challenges by anti-pesticide and farmworker rights groups arguing EPA's standards for the pesticide chlorpyrifos were too weak. The pesticide was banned in 2000 from household use, but permitted in farming. EPA has continued to analyze safe levels for use in farming.

The Court of Appeals ordered EPA to bring its analysis to a swift conclusion, saying the agency had had ample time. The EPA responded Oct. 31 with an announcement that the science remains inconclusive, but to comply with the court ruling, the agency proposes banning the pesticide entirely. (A 60-day public comment period on the proposed revocation runs through Jan. 5.)

Chlorpyrifos is used on dozens of crops in the country, and mostly on wine grapes and broccoli in Monterey County. Locally, it's applied mostly to broccoli fields to kill the cabbage root maggot, which chews on stems and destroys plants.

"There really aren't any good alternatives," Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Bob Roach says.

But some growers appear to be finding alternatives. New regulations controlling water pollution from farms took effect in 2011, and single out chlorpyrifos as particularly toxic; growers who use the organophosphate are automatically included in a higher tier, and subject to closer monitoring. Nearly 17,000 acres of broccoli in Monterey County were treated with chlorpyrifos in 2011, and less than 3,300 acres in 2013, the most recent year for which data is available.